

[1 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

this is a normal phenomenon and cannot be termed as an exodus or a brain drain.

(b) Indian Railways have a large pool of competent officers and no project is likely to be affected due to resignation/voluntary retirement of a few Railway officers.

(c) Officers have the option to seek voluntary retirement/resignation within the Service Rules by giving a notice to the effect. Railway officers resigning/seeking voluntary retirement is a normal process and this cannot be termed as an exodus requiring preventive measures.

(d) No, Sir. The present age limit for Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) is 52 years.

(e) Does not arise.

Pesticide contents in cola drinks

***145. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the products of Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola contain pesticides which are harmful for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against cola companies for manufacturing such harmful drinks;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has fixed any norms for the manufacturing of cola drinks and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the cola drinks, available in the market, meet BIS standards; and

(e) if not, the action taken to stop the manufacturing/marketing of such harmful products?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) The products Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola are covered under the Standards of Carbonated Water, prescribed under the PFA Rules, 1955. The standards for carbonated water under the PFA Rules do not prescribe any limits for total pesticide residues. However, water used in the manufacture of carbonated water is required to conform to the standards

of packaged Drinking Water, wherein the limits for Pesticide Residues has been prescribed. Water comprises approximately 88% of most carbonated drinks.

The analysis of the informal samples of carbonated water were collected by the State Governments as per the direction of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare during August-September, 2006, and were analysed by the Central Food Laboratories for pesticide residues. As per the analysis reports, none of the samples exceeded the permissible limits prescribed for pesticides residues in Packaged Drinking Water.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has also set standards for carbonated beverages (IS 2346) which are under review. The BIS standards are, however, voluntary. Under the PFA Rules, 1955, carbonated drinks are not required to be sold under mandatory BIS Certification Mark.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a National Expert Committee to guide the Pesticide Residues Sub-Committee in fixation of MRLs of pesticides in carbonated beverages, fruit and vegetable juices and other finished products.

States/UT Governments, who are the implementing authorities under the PFA Act have been advised to ensure regular sampling and testing of soft drinks to ensure that quality standards are maintained.

Vaccine for Dengue and Chikungunya

***146. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dengue and Chikungunya/Malaria is becoming an epidemic in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to invent any vaccine for preventing these disease;

(c) whether Government have conducted any research in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.